

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, and 22-24 remain in this application, while claims 2, 4-21, and 25-32 are canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The non-elected claims referred to in section 1 on page 2 of the Office Action are now canceled.

Reference number 18 is now mentioned in the specification.

Independent claim 1 is rejected, along with various other claims, as being anticipated by each of German laid-open document 2 129 918 to Siemens AG, U.S. Patent 3,723,943 to Hotze, and U.S. Patent 6,267,288 to Chung. Reconsideration of each of these rejections is requested. The configurations shown in the Siemens AG document include foil 5 (Figure 1), 10 (Figures 4-6), or 13 (Figure 7), a receptacle or tub 7 (Figure 2), and a plate 8 (Figure 3). None of these elements, however, constitutes a removable protection apparatus including a thermal insulation layer and a metallic outer coating on an outer wall which is thermally coupled to solder connections, and the Siemens AG document, therefore, fails to disclose the particular "providing" and "connecting" acts or operations defined by currently amended claim 1. Similarly, neither the support device 17 utilized according to the Hotze methods nor the pallet 10 used according to the Chung disclosure constitutes a removable protection apparatus including a thermal insulation layer and a metallic outer coating on an outer wall which is thermally coupled to solder connections, and each of these patents also fails to disclose the "providing" and "connecting" acts or operations now defined by claim 1.

Each of the rejections set forth in sections 3-5 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action is overcome by the above amendments to claim 1 for the reasons discussed, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over each of the Siemens AG, Hotze and Chung disclosures. The rest of the claims remaining in this application now depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and are considered patentable over the Siemens AG, Hotze and Chung disclosures as well.

Independent claim 1 is also rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,913,552 to McLellan et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,644,475 to Woychik et al. Reconsideration is requested. The McLellan et al. pocket 9, identified by the Examiner as a plastic bubble or cap, does not constitute a removable protection apparatus including a thermal insulation layer and a metallic outer coating protecting a component during installation to which solder connections are thermally coupled as claim 1 specifies, and installation of the McLellan et al. electrical elements thus does not occur by a process including the particular "providing" and "connecting" acts or operations presently defined by claim 1. Nothing in either the general discussion set forth in column 6, lines 41-52 of the Woychik et al. patent referred to by the Examiner or anywhere else in the Woychik et al. patent disclosure suggests modifying the McLellan et al. method so as to meet the limitations in claim 1 mentioned, moreover, and the McLellan et al. and Woychik et al. documents, taken as a whole, do not suggest the invention as presently defined by claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as it appears above is patentable over the McLellan et al. and Woychik et al. patents relied on for the reasons

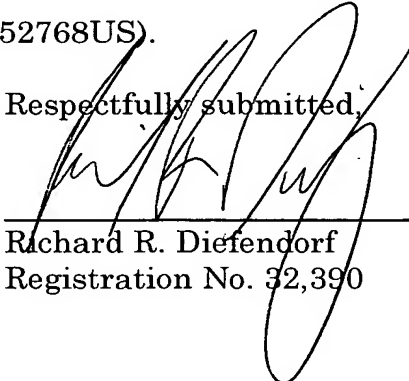
discussed. Again, the rest of the claims remaining in this application depend on claim 1 and are patentable over the McLellan et al. and Woychik et al. patent disclosures as well.

This application is now in condition for allowance for reasons discussed above. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect that timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.52768US).

Date: April 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



---

Richard R. Diefendorf  
Registration No. 32,390

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
RRD:rd